

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SCA-01 IO-14 COME-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2420

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 970

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY COURT-MARTIAL CASES: CHRISTIANS SENTENCED

REF: SEOUL 957

1. EMERGENCY COURT-MARTIAL FEB 7 SENTENCED SIX CHRISTIAN ACTIVISTS TO JAIL TERMS OF TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS AND SUSPENSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL PERIOD. SENTENCES WERE IDENTICAL WITH PROSECUTOR'S DEMANDS.

2. THOSE GIVEN FIFTEEN YEAR SENTENCES WERE KIM KYONG-NAK, MINISTER WITH URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION (ECUMENICAL, PREDOMINANTLY PROTESTANT); KIM CHIN-HONG, EVANGELIST (I.E. LAYMAN ENGAGED IN CHURCH WORK); YI KYU-SANG, EVANGELIST; AND YI HAE-HAK, EVANGELIST. THOSE RECEIVING TEN YEARS WERE YIM MYONG-CHIN, MINISTER WITH URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION AND YI YUN-SU, EVANGELIST (LISTED AS PAK YUN-SU IN SEOUL 496). KIM KYONG-NAK IS METHODIST AND OTHERS ARE ALL PRESBYTERIANS.

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3. PRESIDING OFFICER (LT. GENERAL PAK HI-DONG) SAID IN HIS WRITTEN DECISION THAT DEFENDANTS HAD "DEFIED CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND ACTED TO SPLIT PUBLIC OPINION, DEVIATING FROM THE PROPER ROLE OF RELIGIOUS PERSONS WHICH IS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN UPHOLDING YUSHIN CONSTITUTION THAT WAS LAWFULLY INSTITUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF THE VOTERS." HE CHARGED THE ACCUSED WITH ATTEMPTING TO WIN OVER DOMESTIC RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND SCHEMING TO STAGE RALLIES TO FURTHER THEIR OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS. ACCORDINGLY, COURT HAD NO CHOICE, HE SAID, BUT TO PUNISH THEM TO PROTECT "INNOCENT MAJORITY OF REGIGIOUS PERSONS."

4. ACCORDING TO G-2 REPORT FROM POLICE SOURCES, ONLY ONE DEMONSTRATOR APPEARED OUTSIDE DEFENSE MINISTRY COMPOUND AT TIME OF SENTENCING. HE WAS AMERICAN JESUIT FATHER JOHN B. DALY, WHO TEACHES PHILOSOPHY AT SOGANG UNIVERSITY (NOT COLLEGE PRESIDENT WHO IS ALSO A JOHN DALY). REPORT DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST FATHER DALY.
HABIB

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